



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - November 17, 2003

- ***In the West***, light precipitation is overspreading winter wheat areas of the ***interior Northwest***. Farther south, low reservoir levels remain a long-term concern across the ***Great Basin, Intermountain West, and Southwest***, despite last week's highly beneficial precipitation.
- ***On the Plains***, showers and isolated thunderstorms are confined to ***eastern Kansas*** and parts of ***Oklahoma***. However, a significant portion of the winter wheat crop remains poorly established as the overwintering period approaches, despite recent soil moisture improvements in some locations. On the ***southern High Plains***, warm, mostly dry weather is promoting sorghum, cotton, and peanut harvesting.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, showers and thunderstorms are developing across western portions of the region. Elsewhere in the Midwest, mild, mostly dry weather favors corn harvesting, which remains behind schedule in ***Michigan*** and some other sections of the ***lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are developing in the ***western Gulf Coast region***, where most autumn fieldwork has been completed. Meanwhile in the ***Southeast***, warm, dry weather favors cotton and soybean harvesting, and winter wheat planting.

Outlook: A slow-moving cold front will trigger locally heavy rain, gusty winds, and potentially severe early-week thunderstorms in the ***Mississippi Valley***. Similarly unsettled weather will overspread the ***eastern one-third of the U.S.*** by mid-week. Meanwhile, a high-pressure system will maintain mild, mostly dry conditions across the ***western half of the nation***, although a series of disturbances will provide periods of precipitation to the ***Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 22-26 calls for the possibility of above-normal precipitation across the ***Great Lakes and Northeastern States***, while drier-than-normal conditions will prevail across most of the remainder of the U.S., including the ***Rockies, Plains, and South***. Above-normal temperatures are forecast from the ***Southwest to the southern Plains***, while colder-than-normal conditions will overspread the ***Great Lakes, Northeastern, and Mid-Atlantic States***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)

Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>